



# Newsletter

Date: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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Inclusion Integrity Initiative Inspiration Involvement

Headline!

News!

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

Well the end of term has come and what a strange December it is turning out to be!

We have been entertained by the EYFS/KS1 wonderful nativity this week. It was absolutely beautiful and I hope the parents of those children are able to view and share in the experience at home with their children.

All children have participated in class parties, movies and activities and the laughter has been a joy to hear around the school.

Father Christmas ensured there was much merriment and once again, PACT have had another successful event with their gifts from Santa!

Once again, we have been reminded of the presence of COVID after having 2 days with no cases in school. We are hoping that this is an isolated case and are continuing to monitor the situation around school. Likewise, I have been in discussions with InMAT regarding possible decisions by the government and staff have been made aware of different scenarios and how will try to overcome each one. Over the holidays, I will be keeping an eye on any developments and share plans with you should we need to make any changes to the learning. Like you, we feel the impact of the last two years is becoming clearer across the country and we will do our very best to ensure the school remains a safe, learning environment for as long as we are able to do so.

As we enter our holidays, please encourage your children to relax, have fun and enjoy time with you and their extended families where possible.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas,

Mrs Bodman-Knight



## PACT Snowflake Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the PACT Snowflake Competition. We had so many beautiful entries. Congratulations to all the winners and runners up from each class.



## New signing in/out system

You may have seen we have a new signing in/out system in the foyer. This has been with us for a week now and we have been randomly asking Visitors, Parents/Carers and Late Arrivals to use it throughout the week, to make sure everything works as it should.



We are pleased to say it is now fully functional, so from January 2022 all Visitors, Pupils arriving late and Pupils arriving and leaving within school time, will be asked to sign in and/or out.

Late pupils will be asked to give a reason, so please bear this in mind if leaving your child to sign themselves in.

If you require any help whilst using the system, please do ask at the office and we will be happy to guild you through.

## Age-inappropriate Content

Please take a look at the poster below, which informs Parent/Carers about age-inappropriate content.

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways - from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

**WHERE IS IT FOUND?**

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people. It is regularly best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

**GAMING**  
Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks admitting to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where older (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

**STREAMING**  
The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of seeing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

**ADVERTS**  
Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content, usually gambling and payday or postal order, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, stopped for liquor or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

**18 Advice for Parents & Carers**

**TALK IT THROUGH**  
Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

**CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT**  
If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake - but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

**BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL**  
After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content that violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

**GET SPECIALIST HELP**  
Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

**STAY CALM**  
Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have heated up to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Cathy Jorgensen is a Licensed Counsellor with The Health Professionals Council of South Africa, and the runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety f/NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

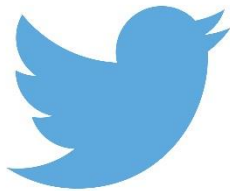
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## PACT - Early request for items.

In preparation for next year's events, PACT would really appreciate any unwanted Christmas gifts, outgrown Christmas jumpers & unused wrapping paper.

Any items can be brought to the office during the first week back in January. Many thanks.



**Whole school** - @primary\_hall  
**Iris** - @HMIris2  
**Demeter** - @DemeterHm  
**Apollo** - @HmApollo  
**Poseidon** - @HmPoseidon  
**Athena** - @HMAthena6  
**Ares** - @HMAres2  
**Zeus** - @hm\_zeus

## Tweet of the week!



HMZeus  
@hm\_zeus

Thank you for coming to visit us today, #fatherchristmas @HallPact



## DATES

### January dates for diary!

Weds 5<sup>th</sup> Jan – Back to School

Weds 26<sup>th</sup> Jan – School Photographer visit

Weds 26<sup>th</sup> Jan – Athena Class Assembly (To be confirmed nearer the time.)

## 2021-22

### Term 3

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Training Day

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – School open to all pupils

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February – End of term

### Term 4

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Training day

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – School open to all pupils

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – End of term

**Term 5**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – School open to all pupils

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May – End of term

**Term 6**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Training Day

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – School open to all pupils

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July – End of term